

December 5, 2021 - Advent 2

Worship 9:30am

Faith Formation 10:50am

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Karen Goering Hostetler, pianist

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Lonnie Buerge, Worship Leader

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

HYMN VT 216

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

In accordance with Covid guidelines, please wear a singer's mask or N95 mask while singing.

WE LISTEN AND LEARN

MOMENT OF WONDER

Sarah Neher

SCRIPTURE/TEACHING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ruth Harder, Kate Brubacher

ANTHEM

My Soul Cries Out (VT 412)

Choir and Rainbow Strings

WE RESPOND AND SHARE

SHARING JOY

We welcome the introduction of guests and visitors during this time. One way we get to know one another is by signing the friendship registers. Once the register reaches the center aisle, please pass it back to the outer aisle.

SHARING CONCERNS

PRAYING TOGETHER

Slips of paper are available in the pew racks for those who wish to offer joys and concerns silently and anonymously. These papers, if put in the offering plate, will be placed in the prayer bowl table at the front of the sanctuary.

HYMN VT 238 *Wisdom from on High Is Dawning*

OFFERING

Away in a Manger

Rainbow Strings

WE GO INTO THE WORLD WITH LOVE

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE *My Soul Cries Out*

Rainbow Strings

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

December 5 – Sunday

- Worship Service and Livestream 9:30 AM
- Peppernut Sale and Community Building Time in the Fellowship Hall 10:30 AM
- Faith Formation Hour 10:50 AM
- Rezound! Handbell Ensemble 3:00 PM

December 6 – Monday

- Bible Study 5:00 PM

December 7 - Tuesday

- Staff Meeting 12:00 PM
- Worship Committee Meeting 8:00 PM

December 8 – Wednesday

- Piecemakers 10:00 AM
- Choir Rehearsal 6:45 PM

December 9 – Thursday

- Trustees Meeting 7:00 PM
- Peace and Social Justice Committee Meeting 7:00 PM

December 11 – Saturday

- Leaf Pickup Day 8:30 AM

Pastor Ruth Harder will be out of town for a continuing education seminar on Monday, December 6 through the 8th.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday, Dec 12th- Youth Brunch, 10:50 AM

Sunday, Dec 19th- Rainbow Christmas Experience 10:00 AM

CARING NOTES

- Update from Brenda and Dick Tatro: "After a short (and encouraging stint) in rehab, our daughter Teri returned to ICU this week for another brain surgery. We ask for your continued prayer and we thank you for the letters and cards. We are blessed to have so many friends supporting us. Thank you so much!"
- Congratulations to John and Sarah Phillips and big sister Adeline on the birth of Calvin Henry Phillips. He was born on Nov. 24 at 3:18 a.m. Everyone is doing well. Grandmother Carol Buller is in Boston to help with Adeline and to welcome the new baby home.
- Let's share joy with Melissa and Nick Schroeder and their newborn Kai Jinson Schroeder born November 30! If you are interested in providing the family with a meal sign-up [here](https://mealtrain.com/rq2667). <https://mealtrain.com/rq2667>

FAITH FORMATION HOUR 10:50 AM

K-5th, Rainbow Room (at the bottom of the east stairs to the left)

Jr. High (6th-8th), Jr. High Room (the first classroom at the top of the east stairs)

Sr. High (9th-12th), Sr. High Room (the classroom closest to the balcony)

Adult class: Adult class through December 5: [*Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*](#) by Rachel Held Evans. Our author admits that our childhood Bible stories don't answer all of life's questions. Rachel Held Evans is a storyteller and challenges us to love the Bible and its stories from a different perspective.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

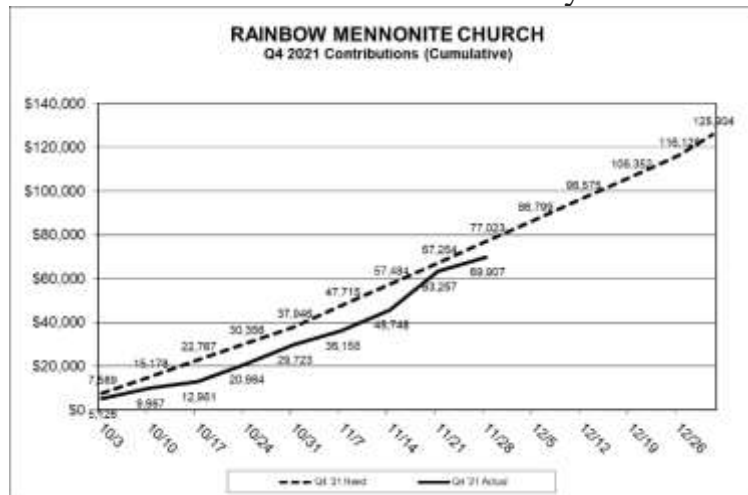
Peppernut Sale- It's that time of year! Today the youth will be selling peppernuts in the fellowship hall during Community Building Time. Get them before they are gone!

The Rainbow Performing Arts Committee is thrilled to announce our church's first live concert event since the start of the pandemic! Today at 3:00 PM, we are hosting a performance by Rezound! Handbell Ensemble. This metro-wide auditioned group of musicians has played here several times in years past, and always brings quality music for our enjoyment. The concert will feature seasonal music and will provide us with a great start to the holidays. Masks will be required. The concert is free, but donations will be much appreciated.

Please join the Playground Committee for our annual leaf pickup workday in the Whitmore Playground from 8:30 am to noon on Saturday, December 11th. A lot of leaves have fallen already this year, so we will need lots of help, and it's a great fellowship opportunity! Please bring your rake and trash cans, they can also be helpful to transport the leaves. Contact Darin Kaufman with any questions.

Rainbow's Christmas Experience will be December 19th at 10:00 am following a shortened worship service. There will be three stations including drumming, Christmas around the world, and a unique way of interacting with the Christmas story. The morning will finish with community time outside with hot drinks and treats.

Stewardship Update: As of 11/28/21, we are forecasting that we will require \$56K in contributions in the final 5 weeks of the year to meet our 2021 commitment to fund all the missions of the church and break even for the year. This is after counting the \$44.7K PPP loan forgiveness as income. Based on this, our average need per Sunday beginning 12/5 is \$11.2K. The chart below illustrates our actual vs. needed giving during Q4 2021. Please keep church finances in mind as we head toward the end of our business year. Thank you.



Are you considering a home improvement project soon? With a home equity loan or line of credit from Everence, a faith-based partner of our church, you can get the cash you need – when you need it – at a great rate! Learn more and note the creation care discount for green-related projects at everence.com/home-equity.

Apply now for a 2022-2023 scholarship. Our church’s faith-based partner, Everence, wants to help people nurture their talents. If you or your parents are Everence members and you will be enrolled in a college or trade school next fall, apply for an Everence College Scholarship of up to \$3,000 before Feb. 28. Visit everence.com/college-scholarships now for guidelines and an application.

Read Toolkit to care for your God-given gifts. Learn tips and ideas about how to care for whatever we receive from God. Look at the [current issue of Toolkit](#) from our faith-based partner, Everence. *If you have problems accessing everence.com, contact WebHelp@everence.com or call 800-348-7468 ext. 3333.*

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

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